

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 DLOS-06 AF-10 L-03 EB-11 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 242751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, LY, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET RESPONSE TO LIBYAN INTERNAL WATERS
EXTENSION

1. DURING DECEMBER 10 CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ARMITAGE AT DEPARTMENT, SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELOR
GROMYKO DESCRIBED RECENT SOVIET REPLY TO LIBYAN INCLUSION
OF GULF OF SIRTE IN TERRITORIAL WATERS. GROMYKO PROVIDED
INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF NOTE WHICH DESCRIBES LIBYAN ACTION
AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED RULES OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CONTRARY TO PRINCIPLES OF 1958

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GENEVA CONVENTION ON TERRITORIAL SEA. QTE THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE USSR CANNOT RECOGNIZE AS LAWFUL THE ACTION OF THE

GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA TO EXTEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY ON THE OPEN WATERS TO THE GULF OF SIDRA (SIC). END QTE

2. GROMYKO ASKED ABOUT USG ATTITUDE TOWARD LIBYAN ACTIONS AND WHETHER USG HAS MADE DEMARCHE ON GULF OF SIRTE QUESTION.

3. IF ASKED, ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY USE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN REPLY: THE UNITED STATES PROTESTS ALL UNILATERAL EXTENSIONS OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA BEYOND THREE MILES AND ALL UNILATERAL EXTENSIONS OF INTERNAL WATERS BEYOND THOSE LIMITS RECOGNIZED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE FEEL THAT SUCH EXTENSIONS ARE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE AT HIS TIME

WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS IS CONVENING A CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA WHICH WILL DEAL WITH ISSUES CONCERNING THE LIMITS OF COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION. AT PRESENT, WE ARE CONSIDERING A PROTEST TO THE ACTION TAKEN BY LIBYA WHICH WE FEEL IS NOT AUTHORIZED UNDER PRESENT INTERNATIONAL LAW.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED GROMYKO ALONG LINES OF PARA 3. RUSH

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